

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A connector, comprising:

a plurality of terminals; and

a connector housing, receiving the terminals, each of the terminals, including:

a terminal connecting portion, having a tubular shape, and receiving a mating terminal;

a wire press-contacting portion, including a press-contacting blade for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and

an interconnecting portion, connecting the terminal connection portion and the wire press-contacting portion,

wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the mating terminal into an internal space of the terminal connecting portion;

wherein the interconnecting portion has a horizontal portion and vertical portion with respect to the terminal fitting direction, the vertical portion extends past the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the terminal fitting direction, such that the blade is spaced away from the

terminal connecting portion by the horizontal portion and the blade is elevated above the terminal connecting portion in the direction perpendicular to the terminal fitting direction;

wherein the terminal connecting portions of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a staggered manner;

~~The connector as set forth in claim 6,~~ wherein the interconnecting portion has a press-contact receiving face which abuts against an inner wall of the connector housing so that a press-contacting force acting on the press-contacting blade is received by the inner wall of the connector housing when the wire is press-contacted with the press-contacting blade; and

wherein the connector housing has a support jig-inserting portion into which a support jig for receiving the press-contacting force through the inner wall of the connector housing is inserted.

8-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A connector, comprising:

a plurality of terminals; and

a connector housing, receiving the terminals, each of the terminals, including:

a terminal connecting portion, having a tubular shape, and receiving a mating terminal;

a wire press-contacting portion, including a press-contacting blade for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and

an interconnecting portion, connecting the terminal connection portion and the wire press-contacting portion,

wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the terminal connecting portion,

wherein the terminal connecting portions of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a staggered manner,

wherein the interconnecting portion has a press-contact receiving face which abuts against an inner wall of the connector housing so that a press-contacting force acting on the press-contacting blade is received by the inner wall of the connector housing when the wire is press-contacted with the press-contacting blade, and

wherein the connector housing has a support jig-inserting portion into which a support jig for receiving the press-contacting force through the inner wall of the connector housing is inserted.

13. (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 7, wherein the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

14-15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

17. (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contacting blade is formed by a flat plate having a groove with which the wire is press-contacted.

18. (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the wire press-contacting portion is spaced a prescribed distance from the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

19-20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contacting blade has a planar face which is positioned above the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.